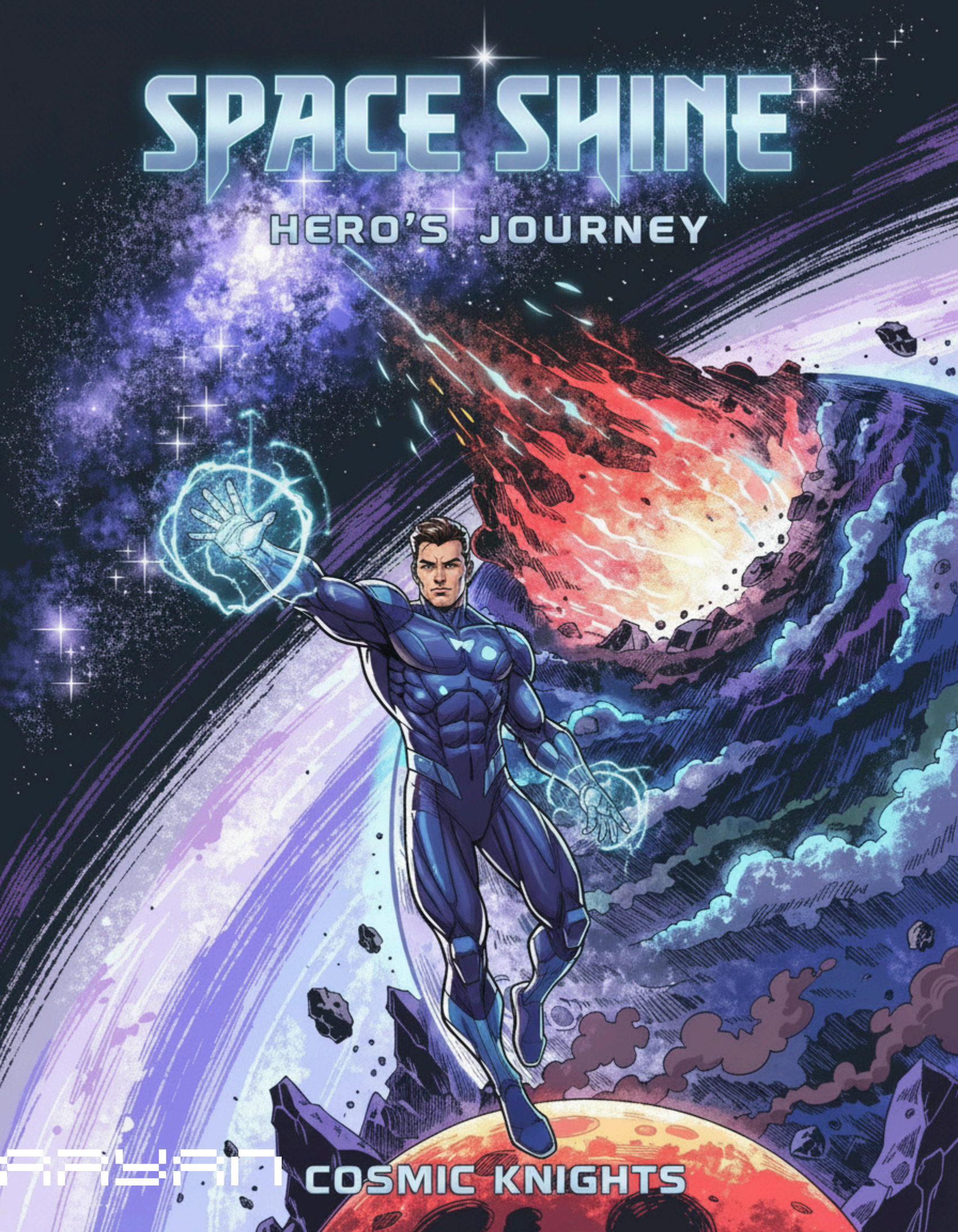
SPACE SHINE
HERO'S JOURNEY
COSMIC KNIGHTS

THE HERO

WERA

Aditya was once an average engineer who lived and worked in Mumbai; however, everything changed due to a space storm that modified his genetic make-up. Aditya now dresses in an elegant blue attire, his hands emitting light of stars, and his eyes blazing with an eternal fire of passion. The “W” sign on his dress represents the Wera – the man who knows the truth and dares to stand against the darkness.

THE VILLAIN

VOIDLORD

A giant man in black armor with spikes on his shoulders in dark red that resembles torn pieces of galaxies. His eyes are bright and have white color without pupils, without mercy. He wields the Void Crystal Staff, the tip of which is a cosmic blue flame stolen from the dead stars. Many centuries ago, he was the greatest scientist of the Caelum galaxy, but now he only exists for one reason: bringing everything into darkness.

Chapter 1:

When the Stars Went Out

Fear not the dark, for
to know the dark is
victory. For he who
knows not the dark—is
already defeated."

you should not be afraid of your fears, difficult times, or hard truths (the "dark"). Instead, you should face them directly.

ARYAN

Wera Training Log, Entry #001

The Warning

The Omen

In the galaxy of Caelum, there was an ironclad law: stars do not die. Yet on this day, three stars died in a span of one hour without a supernova or any signs beforehand. It felt like someone turned off the light switch.

Aditya Raje was sitting in the cockpit of his ship, ISV Prakash, looking at his sensors in utter shock. All three stars were gone; all in a straight line! "Something is devouring them," he thought aloud. It was a solo mission for him, just how he liked it.

He switched on his comm-link with HQ, "Commander priya, there is a stellar anomaly in Sector 9-Delta. Three stars are dead. This cannot be a coincidence," he stated

"Aditya, you were reporting meteorite showers earlier," Priya’s voice sounded tired through the static.

"Priya, trust me on this one. Three stars in a straight line. I am investigating," Aditya stated.

"Please, don’t go by yourself," she pleaded, but it was too late; Aditya had already disconnected the call.

The Encounter

ISV Prakash made a jump in space and got to the coordinates, but there was nothing there; no gases, no radiation, only a void where a star ought to have been. At once, the fabric of space rent itself apart and the man stepped out of the hole left by the star's disappearance.

He was the Voidlord, standing tall and seven feet high in his black suit of armor which absorbed all the light falling on it. He floated in space, defying gravity and moving freely between asteroids.

"waera, Aditya Raje, Mumbai, Earth," his voice rang out directly in Aditya's mind. "You are mere blips in the eternal silence".

"The stars, those stars! You?" demanded Aditya.

"Stars are wasteful of energy," he replied. "I'm only hastening their end".

The Battle

Energy was now crackling between Aditya's fingers, a bright blue-white glow. He felt alive, burning with cosmic powers. "Those stars had civilizations! Civilizations!" he screamed as he unleashed another massive beam.
The Voidlord remained unphased. All he did was rotate the staff, and all blasts that came to it were absorbed in the crystal. There was nothing that Aditya could do, from flying in light speed to bombarding from all angles—the energy either dissipated in darkness or was absorbed by the crystal.

"I am not darkness," the Voidlord spoke coldly. "I am the absence of light. And you cannot defeat me with the light." He brought up the staff and hit Aditya with a purple-black wave. Aditya felt himself fading out into an astral space where he heard the voice of his mother calling him to return home and the voices of those he killed accusing him of being responsible for his death. His knees felt shaky, as his fears turned into physical attacks.
"Nothing is real!" Aditya shouted. Remembering his own words, he knew his power wasn't from the storm, but from his will.

The Sacrifice

Back in reality, Aditya realized that he could not win a fight. He connected his consciousness to the ship's power core. "You need power? Let me show you what I got," he whispered.

Aditya started to transfer all the power from the ship to himself. It felt like being cut open with something extremely sharp and heated, and all his nerves screamed in agony. His skin started shining brighter than the sun.

"Stop, you will kill yourself!" cried Voidlord, taking a step towards him.

"I can't stop!" roared Aditya while putting everything he had into Voidlord's crystal staff. The crystal glowed red and white and... broke.

A wave of energy hit the villain and sent him back into the void, but for a brief moment, Aditya saw his face full of genuine human fear. The boy passed out as soon as his hands released all their blue power.

The Aftermath

Priya found him after four hours in the med bay of the rescue ship.
"Nothing but the Voidlord is gone. But the stars will never return again," she informed him.

"He will return, but this time I won't be alone."

In the emptiness, the Voidlord was busy healing himself. He was mulling over the sensations he experienced, sensations which, he believed, he had shed when he was called the scientist Kaal-Vyom. For the very first time in many centuries, the Voidlord had a query for himself: "If I am nothing, why do I still feel?"

The Message

"Hero is not the one who does not fear. Hero is the one who moves forward despite the fear. And the villain? The villain is the one who decided one day that feeling pain is a weakness. Maybe—just maybe—he was wrong."

— wera, Log Entry #047

To be continued